

Why is talking important?

"When we read with our kids and then open ourselves up for conversation, we have a unique opportunity to help them encounter great thoughts and ideas, think deeply about them, and allow those ideas and encounters to shape their lives. "

-Sarah Mackenzie, author of The Read-Aloud Family

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Kindergarten Lions

Library!



Talking Activities

Looking for a good book to read?

Wordless Picture Books

- *Flashlight* by Lizi Boyd
- *Unspoken: a Story from the Underground Railroad* by Henry Cole
- *Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell
- *Journey* by Aaron Beck
- *The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney

Diverse Picture Books

- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *Introducing Teddy* by Jess Walton
- *At the Same Moment Around the World* by Clotilde Perrin
- *One Day on the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree* by Daniel Bernstrom
- *A Stick is an Excellent Thing* by Marilyn Singer

Questions to Ask When Reading Together

- Who do you think was the bravest character? (Insert smartest, meanest, nicest, etc.)
- How is 'X' like/different than 'Y'?
- What does this story or character remind you of?
- What is something you don't want to forget from this book?
- Which character reminds you of yourself?

○ Have your child "read" you a wordless picture book by telling you what they think is happening in the story.

○ Choose a book you haven't read and have your child guess what they think it is about based on the cover.

○ Play the *Odd One Out Game* together. Make a list, or randomly think, of three things, two of which are the same and one that is different. Talk about which one is different and what makes it different. Example: Horse, cow, tractor- the tractor is different because it is a vehicle and not an animal.

○ Read a book with your child. When you're finished, ask your child what they remember from the book.

○ Play *I Spy* with your child using colors. Example: "I spy something blue! What else is blue? Is blue your favorite color?"

Additional Resources

Recipe for Playdough

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup salt
- 1/2 cup water
- 3-5 drops of food coloring (optional)

Directions:

- Mix flour and salt together.
- Mix water and food coloring together.
- Slowly pour the water mixture into the flour and stir until well combined, kneading with your hands if necessary.
- If the dough is sticky add more flour.



Use dinner time as a talking opportunity. Ask your child what their favorite part of the day was. Ask them what they are most looking forward to during the rest of the week.



Describe and expand your child's vocabulary. When your child states that they do or do not like something repeat the phrase back adding in adverbs and adjectives. Example: "I like Ana's dog," changes to "You like Ana's white, fluffy dog?" Try making it a game. Chose an item in your home or at the park and take turns coming up with descriptions for the items.



Make your own puppets out of brown paper bags or socks and let your child put on a puppet show for you.



Have your child make up their own story. For an added bonus, type or write the story and read the story together the next night.



Try the *Rhyming Game*. Start by saying a word and see if your child can think of a word that rhymes with it. Go back and forth until you can't think of any more rhyming words, then start over with a new word.



Plan an imaginary trip with your child. Where would they like to go? How will you get there? What will you do when you get there? What will you need to pack?



Play the *Would You Rather Game* together and talk about why you both chose the answer you did. Example: Would you rather be able to fly like a bird, or swim under water like a fish?



Make lunch together and talk about each step. Start from the very beginning. Talk about what kinds of food you're eating, where it comes from. Talk about each step of the process as you do it.



Ask your child, "If you had three wishes, what would they be?" and talk about their answers. Let them know what your three wishes are as well.



Talk during play. Grab some playdough* and build a city or neighborhood. Talk with your child about what they are building, how they thought of that, or why they think its important to add to their town. *Find the recipe for playdough in the back of this book.



Talk about your job(s). Share with your child what you do for work and why you are important. Ask them what they want to be when they grow up.



Play the *Guess What Animal I Am* game. Think of an animal and let your child try to guess the animal by asking questions. Once they guess the right animal switch roles and allow them to think of an animal.



Play school (or doctor, or library) with your child. Let them take the lead and tell you what you'll be learning about that day. Try creating more dialogue between you both by using open ended questions. Example: Who, What, When, Where, and Why questions.



Read a story together and talk about how it made you both feel. Ask questions about the story such as, "Who do you think was the bravest character?"



Talk about Kindergarten. Ask your child if they feel ready, brave, or scared about Kindergarten. Talk about the different kinds of things they might see, hear, or want to do.